Fairy Penguins- By Samantha Yun 5G

The scientific name for Fairy Penguins or some may say Little Penguins is the “Eudyptula Minor.” Calling Fairy Penguins “Eudyptula Minors” is the most descriptive way to say it. The word “Eudyptula” means “good little diver.” These flightless seabirds breed in colonies along the Southern Coast of Australia and as far north as Port Stephens in the east to Fremantle in the west.

Population details for Fairy Penguins are concealed for there are little known about it. However, Tasmania ranges (estimated) from 110,000-190,000 breeding pairs which is less than 5% of Mainland Tasmania. The most abundant group of Fairy Penguins is found at offshore Lands. Subspecies of the Fairy Penguin are also found in New Zealand (NZ). The average weight for Adult Fairy Penguins is one (1) kilogram (Kg) and grows to a height of forty (40) centimeters (cm) with an average lifespan of six (6) human years.

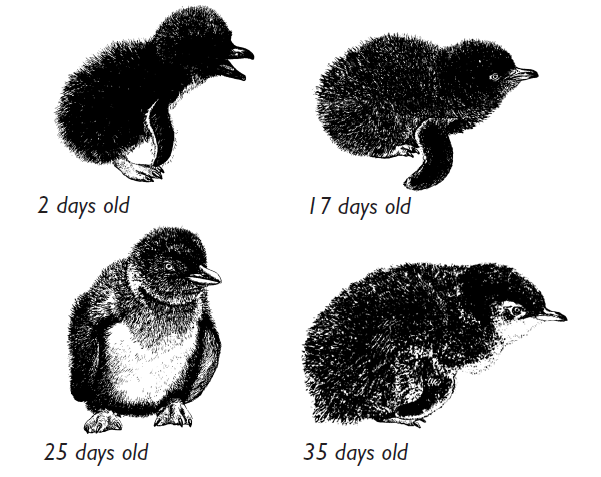
The Fairy Penguin diet can change from various locations but consists mainly of small school fish, some squid and krill (shrimp-like crustaceans). Fairy Penguins eat from rapid jabs from their exquisite beaks. Their prey is swallowed whole which will damage their inside, but is aided efficiently by their barbs. Their prey that has been swallowed is digested into a large gut in their body rather than a crop, for a crop will unbalance them.

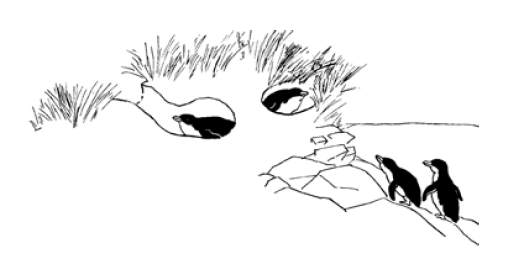
The months between June and August, Male Fairy Penguins either renovate their house burrows or dig new ones. Noisy Male courting (sounds) displays a greeting for Female Fairy Penguins. Although only one mate is chosen to spend their life with the other fairy Penguin, it is usually not their sole mate for life. These seabirds breed annually in Eastern Australia, the usual number of eggs given birth to may be found at early May to late October.

Fairy Penguins are the smallest of all the other penguins and are protected by Wildlife Protection Agencies, now (not to mention) environmental issues for Fairy Penguins are disastrous because of oil spills. Fairy Penguins are illegal to catch, attempt to catch or harass Fairy Penguins.

By Samantha Yun 5G

The Ages of Fairy Penguins





Fairy Penguin Burrows